Tourism development projects of Railways in Orissa

5497. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) rail projects proposed for development of tourism in Orissa, during the year 2002-2003 and subsequent thereto; and

(b) the proposals in hand to link the famous religious and historic tourist centre 'Sun God Temple' and other such centres in Orissa by rail, if not,the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) and (b) Many of the places in Orissa which are of religious or historical interest are already linked directly by rail.

The following rail projects are in progress for development of tourism in Orissa State:

(i) Doubling of Khurda Road—Puri Section (Phase-I) *i.e.* Khurda Road to Delong.

(ii) Remodelling of Puri Section Yard. Additional platforms, extenstion of existing platforms to accommodate 24/26 coach trains etc.

(iii) Augmentation of coaching maintenance facilities at Puri for dealing of 24/26 trains.

New Schemes in 150th year of the Railways

†5498. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Railways is considering to initiate some new schemes on the occasion of completion of 150 years by the Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when these are likely to be started; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some of the schemes which

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have been envisaged to be implemented during the financial year 2002-03 are as under:—

(i) Sixteen pairs inter-city Jan Shatabdi Express train services proposed to be introduced in various parts of the country.

(ii) A pilot project is being launched for development of Unreserved Ticketing System (UTS).

(iii) 150 more Passenger Reservation System (PRS) locations would be added across the country.

(c) Does not arise.

Siding charges for locos

5499. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was inaction/delay in the revision of siding charges in respect of locos used for hauling wagons on private colliery sidings of Bilaspur-Katni Section, during the year 2000-01;

(b) whether this lapse on the part of Railway Administration resulted in short recovery of more than Rs. 25.00 crores by South Eastern Railways; and

(c) whether this was brought to the notice of the Railway Administration by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in October, 2001, and if so, Government's reply thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Comptroller & Auditor General of India has, *vide* para no. 2.1.1 in his Report No. 9 of 2002, mentioned about loss of Rs. 24.67 crores due to non-revision of siding/shunting charges for various sidings on South Eastern Railway. The Report is under examination for taking necessary action as per extant rules.

Earthquake Risk Evaluation Centre

5500. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: